IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly rewrite the claims as follows, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121):

1. to 72. (cancelled)

73. to 76. (cancelled)

77. (previously presented) A method of producing an L-amino acid comprising

A) cultivating ~~the bacterium of claim 73~~ in a culture medium a bacterium transformed with a DNA that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4., and

B) recovering said L-amino acid from the medium.

78. (previously presented) ~~A~~ The method of claim 77 ~~of producing an L-amino acid comprising~~, wherein

~~A) cultivating the bacterium of claim 74 in a culture medium~~said DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 187 to 804 of SEQ ID NO: 3~~, and~~

~~B) recovering said L-amino acid from the medium~~.

79. (previously presented) ~~A~~ The method of claim 77, ~~producing an L-amino acid comprising~~ wherein the bacterium is further transformed with a second DNA that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2

~~A) cultivating the bacterium of claim 75 in a culture medium, and~~

~~B) recovering said L-amino acid from the medium.~~

80. (previously presented) ~~A~~ The method of claim 79, ~~producing an L-amino acid comprising~~wherein said second DNA comprises the nucleotide sequence of nucleotides 557 to 1171 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

~~A) cultivating the bacterium of claim 76 in a culture medium, and~~

~~B) recovering said L-amino acid from the medium.~~

81. (new) The method of claim 77, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.

82. (new) The method of claim 78, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.

83. (new) The method of claim 79, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.

84. (new) The method of claim 80, wherein said L-amino acid is L-threonine.